

**FAITH OF OUR FATHER: PART II**  
**WILLIAM BRADFORD AND THE PILGRIMS**  
**PSALM 33:12**

**I. THEIR IDENTITY.**

**A. William Bradford.**

1. A serious student of the Scriptures at twelve years of age.
2. Associated with the Separatists and fled to Holland at eighteen.
3. An excellent student of languages, history, philosophy and theology.

**B. The Pilgrims.**

1. Name given to the European settlers of New England.
2. Experienced persecution because of their break with the Church of England.
3. Came to the new world primarily for religious reasons and to experience freedom of religion.

**II. THEIR JOURNEY.**

**A. The Beginning of Their Journey.**

1. The departure from Holland was marked by fasting, prayers, and religious services.  
Esther 8:12.
2. The sermon was by Pastor

**B. The Difficulty of Their Journey.**

1. Experienced difficulties beginning the trip and left England with one ship instead of two.
2. Charting errors caused them to arrive far north of their planned destination in the Virginia Colony near the Hudson River.
3. After a grueling 66 day journey (Sept. 6, 1620 –Nov. 21 or Dec. 11) the ship landed in Plymouth Harbor. (Bowed in prayer upon entering the new land).
4. The group was sick from scurvy and malnourished.
5. They arrived in a wilderness land in the winter with no opportunity to prepare for that winter.

**III. THEIR COVENANT. “The Mayflower Compact”**

**A. The Importance of the Covenant.**

1. John Adams and other historians have referred to the Mayflower Compact to the foundation of the U.S. Constitution.
2. The Mayflower Compact established the first basis for laws in the New World in written form.
3. The Mayflower Compact has been described as the first attempt at government “of the people, by the people and for the people” instead of an agreement between kings and subjects.

**B. The Concepts of the Covenant.**

1. Colony established for the glory of God.
2. Colony established for the advancement of the Christian faith.

3. Covenant pledged establishment of laws for the good of the citizens.

#### IV. THEIR THANKSGIVING.

##### A. The Harsh Winter.

1. About half of the 102 passengers on the Mayflower did not survive the first winter.
2. The help of the local Indians made their survival possible.

##### B. The First Thanksgiving. 1621.

1. A time of thanksgiving to God for his goodness.
2. The directive by Governor Bradford in 1623 included the instructions, “there we will listen to the pastor and render thanksgiving to the Almighty God for all his blessings.” (Millard 28).

#### V. THEIR EXAMPLE.

##### A. The Importance of religious freedom.

\* We evangelize by persuasion instead of coercion. 2 Cor. 5:11. \*

##### B. The Ultimate Priorities in Life.

1. The glory of God. 1 Cor. 10:31; Phil. 1:20.
2. The advancement of the Kingdom of Christ. Matt. 28:20.

##### C. The Importance of faith and thanksgiving.

1. Faith in the challenging times. Heb. 11:6; Isa. 40:30,31.
2. Thanksgiving in the victorious times. Ps. 27:6.

On the burial monument of William Bradford are two important phrases.

The Hebrew Phrase – The Lord is my help.

The Latin Phrase – What our fathers have with so much difficulty attained, do not basely  
relinquish.